

IOWA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

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Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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OCT 8 4 2002

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like your support for the merger *that* is currently before the Federal Communications Commission between EchoStar and DirecTV. In many rural Iowa communities, **dependable** and competitive television service is a challenge. Many homeowners have little or no ability to receive local television programming, and if they do, they are limited to one cable provider.

The proposed merger of EchoStar and DirecTV would change this scenario for rural Iowans by making more choices and solutions available to the general public. As a REALTOR®, I hear consumers asking about high-speed Internet access and technology features for their homes, and in most rural Iowa areas these options are currently not available.

A proposal like this merger would deliver competitive technology to even the most remote locations, instantly allowing some of our smaller businesses and individuals to compete in the global marketplace.

I believe this approval of this merger could literally make a world of difference for some communities in Iowa.

Sincerely,

Iowa Realty
Ankeny, IA



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